

REMARKS

The Office Action dated December 13, 2004, has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments and the following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

By this Amendment, the specification and claim 1 have been amended. New claims 2-5 have been added. No new matter has been added. Support for the amendment to the specification and new claim 5 can be found at least in Fig. 1 and on page 6, lines 15-17 of the application as originally filed. Support for the amendments to claim 1 and for new claims 2-4 can be found at least on page 6, lines 10-18 of the application as originally filed. Claims 1-5 are pending and respectfully submitted for consideration.

The specification was objected to as not disclosing how the oil held within the crankcase flows between opposite sides of the bearing support member. The Applicants have amended the written description responsive to the objection. The specification now clarifies that the bearing support member is formed into a webbed shape, consistent with the figures, to allow oil held within the crankcase to flow between opposite sides of the bearing support member 19 through the through holes 45. Support for the amendments to the specification can be found at least in Fig. 1 and on page 6, lines 15-17, of the application as originally filed.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as being based on a disclosure which did not appear to provide support for how oil held within the crankcase flows between opposite sides of the bearing support member. As discussed above, the Applicants have amended the specification in order to clarify the claimed

features of the invention. As such, the Applicants respectfully submit that the specification as originally filed provides support for the subject matter recited in claim 1.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ryu et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,250,273 B1, "Ryu"). The Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 recites subject matter that is neither disclosed nor suggested by Ryu.

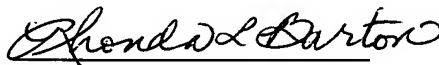
Claim 1 recites that the bearing support member, which is formed with a plurality of through holes and is disposed between the drive transmission wheel and the crank web that is at one end in the axial direction, is formed into a shape that allows oil held within the crankcase to flow between opposite sides of the bearing support member through the through holes. The Office Action took the position that the bearing portion 13₁ in Ryu was comparable to the bearing support member recited in claim 1. However, the Applicants submit that Ryu does not disclose or suggest at least the bearing support member having a shape that allows oil held within the crankcase to flow between opposite sides of the bearing support member through any through holes. Therefore, for at least this reason, the Applicants respectfully submit that Ryu does not disclose or suggest all of the features of the invention as recited in claim 1.

Claims 2-5 depend from allowable claim 1. The Applicants submit that these claims are allowable at least because of their dependency from allowable base claim 1. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1, allowance of claims 1-5 and the prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowability.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300, **referencing Attorney Dkt. No. 107348-00377.**

Respectfully submitted,



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